From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: FCC Says It Will Suspend Most Services Tomorrow If Shutdown Continues
Date: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 5:30:57 AM

By Edward Graham

Top Stories

- The Federal Communications Commission said in a press release that it will suspend most of the agency's services midday tomorrow if the partial government shutdown continues. The FCC plans to furlough the majority of its staff and will cease all work that is not "required for the protection of life and property" or related to spectrum auctions, which are funded by the sale of spectrum licenses. (TechCrunch)

- As many as 1 million subscribers of Verizon Communications Inc.'s FiOS service across the country are suffering a blackout of key broadcast channels after the company's content negotiations with Tegna Inc. fell through. The Tegna blackout came after Verizon reached a deal with The Walt Disney Co. to resolve a separate dispute that threatened to knock ESPN and ABC from

FiOS TV networks. (The Washington Post)

- A malware attack over the weekend that targeted Tribune Publishing Co.'s network caused service distributions for multiple newspapers around the country. The attack, suspected to have originated outside the United States, delayed distribution of Saturday editions of the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union Tribune, and also affected distribution of the West Coast editions of The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times produced at Tribune's Los Angeles printing plant. (Los Angeles Times)

Chart Review

Keeping up with Netflix originals is basically a part-time job now
Quartz

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

No events scheduled

THURSDAY

No events scheduled

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

The Brands That Defined 2018

Which brands won 2018, who's on the rise, and key lessons for brands to take into the new year.

General

Curbs on A.I. Exports? Silicon Valley Fears Losing Its Edge
Cade Metz, The New York Times

A common belief among tech industry insiders is that Silicon Valley has dominated the internet because much of the worldwide network was designed and built by Americans. Now a growing number of those insiders are worried that proposed export restrictions could short-circuit the pre-eminence of American companies in the next big thing to hit their industry, artificial intelligence.

Trump's Tech Battle With China Roils Bill Gates Nuclear Venture
Jay Greene, The Wall Street Journal

Add Bill Gates to the list of executives whose businesses have been ensnared by the Trump administration's battle with China over technology and trade. The tech tycoon and philanthropist said in an essay posted late last week that a nuclear-energy project in China by a company he co-founded called TerraPower LLC is now unlikely to proceed because of recent changes in U.S. policy toward China.

On Democrats' wish list: Tech help for a clueless Congress
Nancy Scola, Politico

Lawmakers' cluelessness at regulating the powerful yet controversy-plagued technology industry is fueling a new push by Democrats to bring back the squad of congressional tech advisers that Newt Gingrich abolished in the 1990s. Advocates say reviving the Office of Technology Assessment would be one way to help Congress get a grip on the complex topics it is trying to tackle, ranging from digital privacy, encryption and quantum computing to online election interference and allegations of social media political bias.

Tesla adds Oracle founder Larry Ellison to board of directors
Sean O'Kane, The Verge

Billionaire Oracle founder Larry Ellison and former Kellogg executive Kathleen Wilson-Thompson are joining the company's board of directors, Tesla announced Friday. Tesla is Ellison's second-largest investment as of October, Ellison said then.

Rough Start to Year as Stocks Reel From China Data: Markets Wrap

Samuel Potter, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures tumbled and stocks slumped across Europe and Asia after evidence of slowing Chinese growth dashed investor hopes for an upbeat start to 2019. Safe havens including gold, bonds and the yen all rallied.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

China's Supreme Court to take on intellectual property cases
Ben Blanchard, Reuters

Intellectual property rights cases can from next month be taken to China's Supreme Court, the government said on Saturday, as the country seeks to strengthen protections in the face of complaints from the United States about the issue. China and the United States are currently in talks to resolve a trade dispute, in which both countries have put tariffs on imports of each other's products.

Facebook Data Scandals Stoke Criticism That a Privacy Watchdog Too Rarely Bites
Nicholas Confessore and Cecilia Kang, The New York Times

Last spring, soon after Facebook acknowledged that the data of tens of millions of its users had improperly been obtained by the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, a top enforcement official at the Federal Trade Commission drafted a memo about the prospect of disciplining the social network. Lawmakers, consumer advocates and even former commission officials were clamoring for tough action against Facebook, arguing that it had violated an earlier F.T.C. consent decree barring it from misleading users about how their information was shared.

The shutdown is about to force the FTC to suspend its Facebook investigation, former officials say
Brian Fung, The Washington Post

A long-awaited federal probe into Facebook will be hamstrung when the agency conducting the investigation runs out of funding on Friday, according to former government officials. The investigation into Facebook's conduct - and whether its handling of user data violated a 2011 consent order with the Federal Trade Commission - has stretched on for months.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Dell Returns to Public Equity Markets
Miriam Gottfried, The Wall Street Journal

Dell Technologies Inc. made its re-entry to the public markets Friday, five years after its eponymous founder and a big private-equity firm took it private in the biggest-ever technology leveraged buyout. The personal-computer maker and data-storage company eschewed a traditional initial public offering to relist its shares.

FCC Investigates Widespread CenturyLink Outage That Disrupted 911 Service
Eric Whitney, NPR News

The Federal Communications Commission has launched an investigation into a phone and Internet outage that disrupted 911 services across the country starting Thursday. The telecommunications giant CenturyLink, based in Monroe, La., says the outage began at 8:18 a.m. ET on Thursday.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Netflix pulls episode of comedy show in Saudi Arabia
Ahmed Al Omran, Financial Times

Netflix has removed an episode of a comedy show critical of Saudi Arabia after the internet streaming service received a complaint from the kingdom, renewing concerns about government control over freedom of expression on online platforms.

Netflix Hires Activision CFO
Joe Flint, The Wall Street Journal

Netflix Inc. is expected to name Activision Blizzard Inc. Chief Financial Officer Spencer Neumann as its new chief financial officer as early as this week, a person familiar with the matter said. Activision Blizzard said in a securities filing Monday that it was putting Mr. Neumann on paid leave and that he would subsequently be fired for cause unrelated to the company's financial

reporting or disclosure procedures.

Fake-porn videos are being weaponized to harass and humiliate women: 'Everybody is a potential target'
Drew Harwell, The Washington Post

The video showed the woman in a pink off-the-shoulder top, sitting on a bed, smiling a convincing smile. It was her face.

Mark Zuckerberg on Facebook's 2018: We've changed, we promise
Ian Sherr, CNET

It's nearly the new year, which means time for some reflection on what's happened and what's to come. For Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, that means looking back on one really tough year.

With Drone Deliveries on the Horizon, Europe Moves to Set Ground Rules
David Shimer, The New York Times

Two years after Amazon completed its first delivery by commercial drone, the idea of routinely using unmanned devices to drop off items at front doors remains a distant, if not far-fetched, dream. The recent shutdown of London's Gatwick Airport, caused by sightings of drones near the runway, underscored the risks and complexities of the efforts.

Wielding Rocks and Knives, Arizonans Attack Self-Driving Cars
Simon Romero, The New York Times

The assailant slipped out of a park around noon one day in October, zeroing in on his target, which was idling at a nearby intersection - a self-driving van operated by Waymo, the driverless-car company spun out of Google. He carried out his attack with an unidentified sharp object, swiftly slashing one of the tires.

Google wins U.S. approval for radar-based hand motion sensor
David Shepardson, Reuters

Alphabet Inc's Google unit won approval from U.S. regulators to deploy a radar-based motion sensing device known as Project Soli. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said in an order late on Monday that it

would grant Google a waiver to operate the Soli sensors at higher power levels than currently allowed.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Personal details of North Korean defectors stolen after hackers target resettling agency
Jake Kwon, CNN

The personal information of almost 1,000 North Korean defectors has been stolen after hackers targeted an agency which helped them resettle in South Korea. Officials said Friday that a computer belonging to the Gyeongbuk Hana Center was "infected with malicious code," enabling hackers to access the information - including names, birth dates, and addresses - of 997 defectors.

Suspect's Twitter messages played role in NSA hacking-tools leak probe
Josh Gerstein, Politico

Hours before a 2016 leak of some of the National Security Agency's most closely guarded hacking tools, a former NSA contractor sent a cryptic Twitter message that prompted alarm on the part of federal investigators, a federal judge has revealed. Messages that the former NSA computer security specialist, Hal Martin, sent via Twitter appear to have led to an FBI raid on his Maryland home and to his arrest on charges of retaining a vast trove of classified information there without permission, according to a newly released court ruling.

Google Wins Dismissal of Suit Over Facial Recognition Software
Matthew Boesler, Bloomberg

A lawsuit filed against Google by users who said the world's largest search engine violated their privacy by using facial recognition technology was dismissed by a judge on Saturday. U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang in Chicago cited a lack of "concrete injuries" to the plaintiffs.

Popular apps share data with Facebook without user consent
Madhumita Murgia, Financial Times

Some of the most popular apps for Android smartphones, including

Skyscanner, TripAdvisor and MyFitnessPal, are transmitting data to Facebook without the consent of users in a potential breach of EU regulations. In a study of 34 popular Android apps, the campaign group Privacy International found that at least 20 of them send certain data to Facebook the second that they are opened on a phone, before users can be asked for permission.

To The Dismay Of Free Speech Advocates, Vietnam Rolls Out Controversial Cyber Law
Ashley Westerman, NPR News

A new cybersecurity law has gone into effect in Vietnam that puts stringent controls on tech companies operating inside the country and censors what its citizens read online. The decree, which was passed by the National Assembly in June, requires companies such as Facebook and Google to open offices in Vietnam, store local user data and to hand over information if the government asks for it.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Spread the Digital Wealth
Rep. Ro Khanna, The New York Times

One key question for the United States in the 21st century is whether noncoastal towns and rural communities, including many communities of color, will be able to participate in the digital revolution. We know that almost all Americans are avid consumers of technology, but many lack the opportunity to do the creative work that fuels our digital economy.

Where in the World Is Larry Page?
Andy Kessler, The Wall Street Journal

Has anyone seen Google founder Larry Page? Me neither.

Tech companies must be defanged by government
Juan Williams, The Hill

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, please keep in mind that we are still fighting the last war - the use of outright lies to divide Americans by race, age and sex for political purposes in the 2016 and 2018 elections. An honest 2020 election is not possible without Congress getting its hands dirty by

confronting Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Google, the tech corporations often referred to by the acronym 'FAANG'.

Research Reports

How Apps on Android Share Data with Facebook (even if you don't have a Facebook account)
Privacy International

Previous research has shown how 42.55 percent of free apps on the Google Play store could share data with Facebook, making Facebook the second most prevalent third-party tracker after Google's parent company Alphabet. In this report, Privacy International illustrates what this data sharing looks like in practice, particularly for people who do not have a Facebook account.

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